



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

ED-1737
28

Office of Environmental Analysis

July 28, 2011

Najah Duvall-Gabriel
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Federal Agency Programs
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Re: AB-55 (Sub-No. 401X) – CSX Transportation, Inc. - Abandonment
Exemption - between Delphi and Frankfort, IN
Wildcat Creek Bridge (bridge #19243)
Indiana SHPO Number: DHPA #4590

Dear Ms. Duvall-Gabriel:

The Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is conducting an environmental review for the above abandonment proceeding pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) filed for abandonment of its rail line from Delphi to Frankfort, Indiana with the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC, now the STB) on November 20, 1991. The ICC issued a decision on December 31, 1991, imposing a Section 106 historic condition on the line pending evaluation. That Section 106 condition is still in place. CSXT has been contacted by several groups, including the Indiana Department of Transportation and the Corps of Engineers, requesting action for what they termed a danger to navigation and public safety. CSXT believes that the bridge is a liability and needs to be dismantled. One of the Wildcat Creek Bridge piers is leaning and has the significant potential to fall.

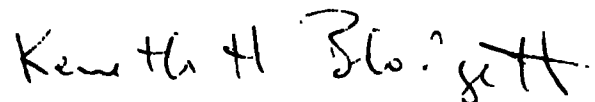
OEA has been consulting with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (SHPO) and CSXT regarding this proceeding. The SHPO has determined that demolition or dismantling of the Wildcat Creek Bridge would be an adverse effect to a historic property. Despite the current damage, the SHPO believes that the Wildcat Creek Bridge retains sufficient integrity to still be considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

OEA intends to work with the SHPO and CSXT regarding the development of a memorandum of agreement (MOA), pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b), to stipulate the resolution of adverse effects to historic properties. We will also invite the Western Regional Office of Indiana Landmarks, the Carroll County Historian, Carroll County Historical Society, and Dan McCain of Delphi Historic Trails to participate as consulting parties. We believe that their advice and consultation would be helpful in resolving the adverse effects of the undertaking. We do not seek your participation at this time.

I have enclosed all documentation on the proposed undertaking for your review, including SHPO's July 14, 2011 letter which explains its determination that dismantling of the Wildcat Creek Bridge would be an adverse effect.

Please indicate to us in writing if you intend to participate in the Section 106 consultations regarding this proceeding. If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this proceeding, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 245-0305.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth Blodgett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kenneth Blodgett
Environmental Protection Specialist
Office of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc (w/out enclosures): James Glass, Indiana SHPO
Melanie Yasbin, CSXT